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RALEIGH, N. C.

FEBRUARY 5, 1953

## AGRICULTURAL PRICES AND OTHER CURRENT ITEMS

### 'ALL FARM PRODUCTS' INDEX DROPS 19 POINTS IN STATE

The "All Farm Products" index of prices received by North Carolina farmers at local markets dropped 19 points during the month ended January 15. All commodity indexes except meat animals and miscellaneous crops declined during the month. The January 15 "All Farm Products" index of 266 compares with an index of 302 a year ago and an index of 308 on January 15, 1951. (See table on Page 2).

The grains commodity index dropped 4 points due to slightly lower prices for all the grain crops.

A decrease of 1.5 cents per pound for cotton lint and 50 cents per ton for cottonseed caused the cotton and cottonseed index to drop 11 points.

The tobacco index decreased 68 points due to a decrease of 5.5 cents per pound for flue-cured (Type 31) tobacco.

The meat animals index increased 2 points as a result of higher prices for hogs, veal calves and lambs. The price received for beef cattle dropped 50 cents per hundredweight while the price received for sheep was unchanged from the previous month.

The poultry products index decreased 13 points due to lower prices for both chickens and eggs.

Slightly lower wholesale milk and butterfat prices caused the dairy products index to decrease 3 points.

The ratio of prices received by North Carolina farmers to prices paid by U. S. farmers declined 8 points during the month ended January 15.

### PRICES RECEIVED DOWN 2 POINTS PARITY INDEX UP 2 POINTS

The Index of Prices Received by U.S. Farmers declined 2 points (a little less than one percent) during the month ended January 15, 1953, to 267 percent of the 1910-14 average. Lower prices for dairy products, cotton, truck crops, eggs, and grains were only partially offset by higher average prices for hogs, calves, sheep, lambs, potatoes, and some fruits.

During the same period, the Index of Prices Paid by Farmers, including interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates rose two points from the revised December level of 280. The Prices Paid component of this index remained unchanged at 267, with the increase in the Parity Index resulting from increases in the

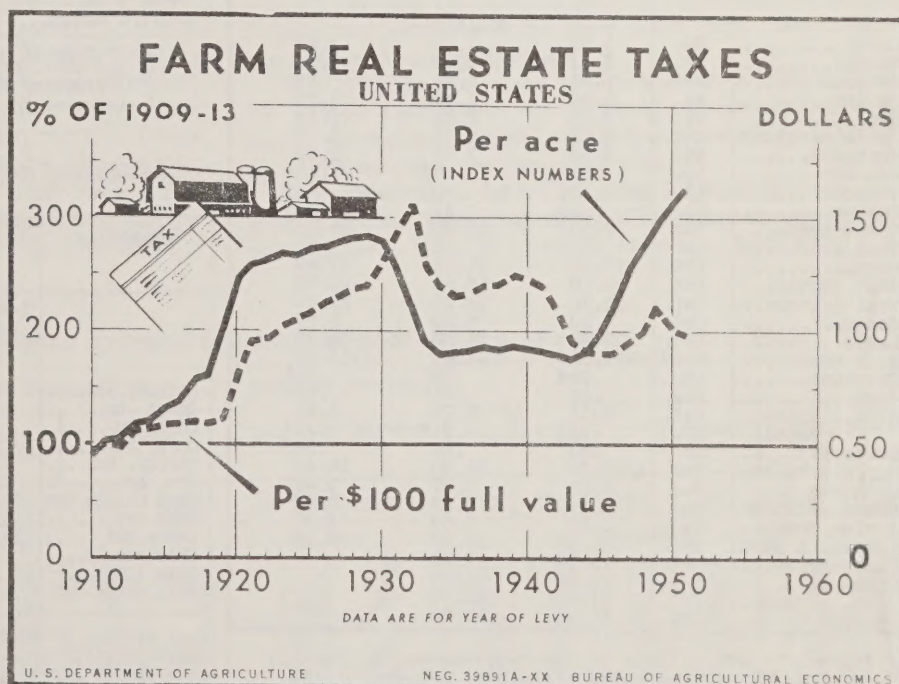
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### CHICK HATCHINGS UP

Commercial hatcheries in North Carolina produced an estimated 4,249,000 chicks during December. This was the largest December output of record exceeding the previous record established in 1951 by 11 percent and the 1946-50 average by 134 percent.

Chick production in the State during 1952 at 61,342,000 was 4 percent greater than the 58,890,000 chicks produced a year earlier and the largest annual output of record.

The preliminary estimate of chicks hatched in the United States during 1952 totalled 1,725,347,000 compared with 1,782,944,000 during 1951 -- a decrease of 3 percent. There were 585,042,000 chicks placed in 11 principal broiler producing areas in 1952 -- 6 percent more than in 1951.



Value of farm products sold abroad during the third quarter of 1952 was down nearly a third from a year earlier.. Sharpest drops were in wheat and cotton, our main export commodities.



## PRICES RECEIVED DOWN 2 POINTS

(Continued)

index of Farm Wage Rates, the index of Interest on Farm Mortgage Debt, and the index of Taxes per Acre on Farm Real Estate.

As a result of the decrease in the Index of Prices Received and the increase in the Parity Index (Index of Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, and Wage Rates) the Parity Ratio declined to 95, one point below December 15.

## FEED-PRICE RATIOS

Effective with this report Local Market Poultry, Feed-Price Ratios will be published each month. These ratios are based on State average prices received for eggs and poultry and State average prices paid for feed. Hence, ratios in a given area may be higher or lower than the ratios for the State as shown in the table below.

LOCAL MARKET POULTRY FEED-PRICE RATIOS  
JANUARY 15, 1953 WITH COMPARISONS

Poultry Feed-Price Ratio a/	North Carolina		United States	
	Dec. 15 1952	Jan. 15 1953	Dec. 15 1952	Jan. 15 1953
Egg-feed (Laying Mash).....	b/	12.3	11.4	11.3
Farm chicken-feed c/.....	b/	5.2	b/	5.7
Broiler-feed (Broiler Mash)	b/	4.9	b/	5.2
Turkey-feed c/.....	b/	8.5	8.5	8.3

a/ Pounds of feed equal in value to 1 dozen eggs: 1 pound farm chickens: 1 pound broilers: 1 pound turkeys, liveweight.

b/ Not available c/ Poultry Ration.

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS JANUARY 15, 1953  
WITH COMPARISONS

Commodity	Unit	North Carolina		U. S.
		Dec. 15 1952	Jan. 15 1953	Jan. 15 1953
- Dollars -				
Corn.....	Bu.	1.73	1.70	1.48
Wheat.....	Bu.	2.11	2.09	2.10
Oats.....	Bu.	1.08	1.04	.821
Barley.....	Bu.	1.50	1.47	1.37
Rye.....	Bu.	2.52	2.38	1.65
Grain sorghums	Cwt.	3.15	3.15	2.74
Soybeans.....	Bu.	2.60	2.57	2.69
Peanuts.....	Lb.	.114	.112	.109
Tobacco.....	Lb.	a/ .429	b/ .450	a/ .462
Cotton.....	Lb.	.335	.32	.297
Cottonseed....	Ton	69.50	69.00	65.30
Wool.....	Lb.	.52	.52	.51
Hogs.....	Cwt.	17.10	17.80	17.80
Beef cattle...	Cwt.	17.00	16.50	19.70
Veal calves...	Cwt.	22.30	23.30	23.40
Sheep.....	Cwt.	8.50	8.50	8.40
Lambs.....	Cwt.	23.60	24.50	20.30
Milk cows.....	Head	155.00	157.00	213.00
Chickens.....	Lb.	.266	.266	.285
Eggs.....	Doz.	.55	.55	.458
Milk, whise..	Cwt.	6.25	c/ 6.20	4.89
Milk, Retail.	Qt.	.219	.216	.211
Butterfat.....	Lb.	.60	.56	.683
Hay, all baled.	Ton	d/ 32.90	33.30	26.40
Potatoes.....	Bu.	2.85	2.85	2.06
Sweet potatoes	Bu.	3.40	3.50	3.86
Apples, comm..	Bu.	2.60	2.60	3.21
Lespedeza seed	Cwt.	17.20	19.60	19.10
Korean.....	Cwt.	15.80	17.90	-
Kobe.....	Cwt.	18.50	21.00	-
Com. & Tenn..	Cwt.	21.00	23.00	-
Sericea.....	Cwt.	21.00	24.00	-

a/ Types 11 - 37, b/ Type 31, c/ Preliminary, d/ The all hay price is the weighted average of separate kinds including an allowance for minor kinds.

## FEED PRICES

Prices of most feeds purchased by North Carolina farmers, except mixed dairy feeds, declined or remained unchanged for the month ended January 15.

All mixed dairy feed prices increased from 5 to 10 cents per hundredweight except the 29% protein content feed which was unchanged from the previous month.

Compared with the same period a year ago, current prices paid for mixed dairy feeds averaged 5 cents less than the 1951 prices paid. However, soybean and cottonseed meal were up 20 cents while the price of meat scrap was 50 cents below last year's quotation. Corn meal, bran and middlings were 5 cents below last year's price, while laying mash and scratch grain prices were the same as those paid in January 1952.

FEED PRICES PAID BY FARMERS JAN. 15, 1953  
WITH COMPARISONS

Feed Per Hundredweight	North Carolina		United States	
	Dec. 15 1952	Jan. 15 1953	Dec. 15 1952	Jan. 15 1953
- Dollars -				
Mixed Dairy Feed				
Under 29% protein				
All.....	4.30	4.35	4.38	4.37
16% protein....	4.10	4.15	4.27	4.26
18% protein....	4.20	4.30	4.42	4.37
20% protein....	4.55	4.60	4.54	4.52
24% protein....	4.60	4.65	4.85	4.84
29% protein....	5.40	5.40	5.39	5.32
High Protein Feeds				
Linseed meal....	-	-	5.42	5.42
Soybean meal....	a/ 5.30	5.20	5.34	5.09
Cottonseed meal..	a/ 4.60	4.60	5.19	5.14
Meat scrap.....	6.40	6.10	6.31	6.07
Grain By-Products				
Bran.....	4.10	4.10	3.69	3.66
Middlings.....	4.25	4.20	3.82	3.74
Corn meal.....	4.75	4.75	4.04	3.99
Corn gluten.....	-	-	4.23	4.24
Poultry Feed				
Laying mash.....	5.40	5.40	5.16	5.12
Scratch grain....	4.65	4.65	4.50	4.50
Broiler growing				
mash.....	b/	5.50	c/	5.46
Poultry ration...	c/ 4.41	4.48	4.22	4.06

a/ Average of all quotations with varying percent protein.

b/ Not available prior to Jan. 15, 1953.

c/ Average of prices paid for commercial feeds and prices received for grain.

COMPARISON OF U. S. PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS  
AND PARITY PRICES

Commodity	Prices Received By Farmers		Parity or Comparable Prices		Average Prices As Percentage Of Parity	
	Dec. 15 1952	Jan. 15 1953	Dec. 15 1952	Jan. 15 1953	Dec. 15 1952	Jan. 15 1953
- Dollars -						
Cotton, lb.....	.3171	.299	.341	.342	93	87
Wheat, bu.....	2.12	2.10	2.43	2.44	87	86
Corn, bu.....	1.50	1.48	1.77	1.77	85	84
Oats, bu.....	.842	.821	.935	.894	90	92
Barley, bu.....	1.41	1.37	1.44	1.38	98	99
Rye, bu.....	1.73	1.65	1.65	1.71	105	-
Beef Cattle, cwt	19.70	19.70	20.70	21.40	95	92
Hogs, cwt.....	16.00	17.80	21.00	20.60	76	86
Lambs, cwt.....	19.50	20.30	22.70	23.10	86	88
Chickens, lb....	.264	.265	.318	.310	83	85
Eggs, doz.....	.466	.458	.502	.474	79	101d/
Milk, whise, cwt.	5.11 a/	4.89 b/	4.72	4.74	99 a/d	97d/

a/ Revised b/ Preliminary c/ Transitional parity 80% (85 percent during 1952) of parity price computed under formula in use prior to Jan. 1, 1950. d/ Percentage of seasonally adjusted prices to parity prices.







## FARM REPORT

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FEBRUARY 5, 1953

FARM REPORT

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### 1952 HONEY PRODUCTION 18 PERCENT BELOW 1951

Honey production in North Carolina in 1952 totaled 5,292,000 pounds, 18 percent less than the 1951 crop of 6,426,000 pounds. The State's 1952 honey crop was almost double the 1950 crop of 2,775,000 pounds.

The average honey production per colony was 28 pounds compared with 34 pounds in 1951 and 15 pounds in 1950. The 1952 honey crop was produced by 189,000 colonies of bees, the same as 1951, and compares with 189,000 colonies in 1950.

Prices received by N. C. beekeepers for all honey, both retail and wholesale, averaged 31.6 cents per pound in 1952 and 29.8 cents in 1951. Value of honey production in the State totaled \$1,672,000 in 1952 and \$1,915,000 in 1951.

The average price received for beeswax was 42 cents in 1952 and 48 cents in 1951. Beeswax production was valued at \$49,000 in 1952 and \$62,000 in 1951.

Estimated stocks of honey on hand for sale by producers in mid-December totaled 900,000 pounds, or 17 percent of the 1952 production. This compares with 1,221,000 pounds on hand for sale on December 15, 1951.

Honey production in the United States totaled 272,771,000 pounds, 6 percent more than 1951 and 23 percent above the 1946-50 average. The 1952 honey crop was produced by 5,508,000 colonies of bees, one percent less than in 1951. Total U. S. beeswax production was 4,825,000 pounds in 1952 compared with 4,705,000 pounds in 1951.

The U. S. average price for all honey was 16.2 cents per pound in 1952 and 16.0 cents in 1951.

### HONEY PRODUCTION, 1951-1952\*\*

State	Number Colonies of Bees 1952	Honey Production Per Colony	Total Honey Production	
			1951	1952
	(000)	(Pounds)	(1,000 Pounds)	
N. C.	189	28	6,426	5,292
Del.	3	22	90	66
Md.	29	26	725	754
Va.	151	28	4,553	4,228
W. Va.	127	19	2,460	2,413
S. C.	58	16	986	928
Ga.	215	26	5,160	5,590
Fla.	227	75	17,876	17,025

\* 1951 Revised, 1952 Preliminary

*Demand for farm products continues strong in this country but export demand has dropped sharply.*

*Prospects for increased supplies and slightly smaller consumption of cotton, and the decline in prices of some foreign growths are reasons for expecting smaller exports of cotton during the current marketing season.*

### SMALLER TURKEY CROP IN PROSPECT FOR 1953

North Carolina's turkey crop will be cut by 5 percent from last year for the 1953 season if growers' intentions of January 1 are carried out.

A crop of 967,000 turkeys was indicated as of January 1, compared with the all-time record of 1,018,000 raised last year.

Turkey production in North Carolina has almost doubled during the past three years. In 1950, only 559,000 turkeys were raised -- followed by a crop of 783,000 in 1951. The average for the five years from 1945 through 1949 was 404,000.

Across the Nation, growers' reported intentions indicate a cut of 8 percent from last year -- or a crop of 54,069,000 turkeys compared with 58,956,000 produced last year.

### COMPARISON OF TURKEYS RAISED 1951-1952 WITH GROWERS INTENTIONS FOR 1953

STATE AND DIVISION	Average 1945-49	1950	TURKEYS RAISED		Intended in 1953	
			1951	Preliminary 1952		
					Number	% of 1952
- Thousands -						
N. C. ....	404	559	783	1,018	967	95
Md. ....	418	438	460	529	513	97
Va. ....	1,368	2,294	3,670	5,945	4,756	80
W. Va. ....	486	887	1,064	1,330	1,104	83
Del. ....	106	124	143	186	205	110
S. C. ....	471	771	1,002	1,252	1,102	88
Ga. ....	209	316	569	615	430	70
Fla. ....	115	131	151	163	179	110
S. Atl. ....	3,578	5,520	7,842	11,038	9,256	84
N. Atl. ....	3,463	3,899	4,307	5,199	4,743	91
E. N. Cent.	4,493	5,368	6,050	7,072	7,096	100
W. N. Cent.	10,226	11,095	12,290	12,520	12,934	103
S. Cent. ....	4,352	4,749	5,446	5,952	5,434	91
West. ....	11,853	13,161	16,317	17,175	14,606	85
U. S. ....	37,965	43,792	52,252	58,956	54,069	92